

From: Eric Nehrlich
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:04am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. I feel that Microsoft has circumvented such restrictions in the past, and has shown no indication that they will not do so again with the proposed settlement. They have consistently shown no inhibitions about taking any actions necessary to protect their monopoly. If their operating system were being compared to others on a level playing field in terms of stability and usability, Microsoft would lose every time, so it is clear that they are taking advantage of their monopoly position.

I believe that the settlement needs to include a recognition of the immense damage that Microsoft has caused to the computer user community over the past ten years. By crushing innovation that could conceivably harm its monopoly, it has held back the progress of the computer software industry. Users have been conditioned to expect that their software should be expected to fail all the time, that their computer needs to be rebooted at least once a day, and that software must be hard to use. The amount of time that the typical computer user (which is almost everybody these days) spends fighting with their computer to get it to do what they want is probably half an hour a day. Add that up, and that could be a 5% drop in productivity that is directly linked to the inferiority of Microsoft's products, products which have only maintained their market position due to Microsoft's abuse of their monopoly status.

Any settlement needs to recognize the massive negative impact that Microsoft has had over the past ten years, and punish Microsoft for their behavior.

Thanks,
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